

**Determination
Standards for Rangeland Health and
Conformance with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management**

Field Office: Jarbidge Field Office

Watershed Name:
Bruneau River

Allotment Name/Number: Blackrock Pocket / 1102

Public Land (acres)			Streams on Public Land (miles): 0
Upland:	Riparian:	Total:	
12,142	0	12,142	
Date(s) of Field Assessment: 2002			Name of Permittee(s): Simplot Livestock Co.

Assessment Participants (Name & Discipline or Interest):

Arnie Pike, Rangeland Management Specialist
James Klott, Wildlife Biologist
Clare Josaitis, Natural Resource Specialist
John Ash, Natural Resource Specialist
Sheri Hagwood, Botanist
Patricia Courtney, Range Technician

Standard 1 (Watersheds)

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

<input type="checkbox"/> Standard doesn't apply	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are not Significant Factors.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	<input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s).

Rationale/Information Sources:

Blackrock Pocket (proper), which is about 25 percent of the allotment acreage is not meeting the indicators of this Standard. This area has a large amount of bare ground (greater the 30% cover)

and shows some wind scouring and deposits that likely occurred immediately after the area burned. Soil surface resistance to erosion is a moderate to extreme departure from potential as shown by the rapid dissolving of a soil surface pedon in water. There is a low quantity of biological crust to hold the soil surface together. Soil surface loss likely occurred following the fire that burned through the area.

The remaining 75 percent of the Allotment acreage is meeting the indicators of this Standard.

Standard 2 (Riparian Areas and Wetlands)

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

X Standard doesn't apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are not Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	<input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s).

Rationale/Information Sources:

Standard 3 (Stream Channel/Floodplain)

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

X Standard doesn't apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are not Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	<input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s).

Rationale/Information Sources:

Standard 4 (Native Plant Communities)

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

<input type="checkbox"/> Standard doesn't apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	X Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are not Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	<input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s).

Rationale/Information Sources:

The Blackrock Pocket area has a large amount of invasive species such as halogeton, cheatgrass and tumble mustard. Climax native bunchgrasses like Thurbers needlegrass and bluebunch wheatgrass are in very low composition.

Above Blackrock Pocket (proper), most indicators of the Standard are met. The exception is the low composition of big sagebrush on about 25 percent of the allotment resulting from a wildfire. The herbaceous components of the plant community, however, are present.

Standard 5 (Seedings)

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

X Standard doesn't apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are not Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	<input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s).

Rationale/Information Sources:

Standard 6 (Exotic Plant Communities, Other than Seedings)

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Standard doesn't apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are not Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	<input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s).

Rationale/Information Sources:

Standard 7 (Water Quality)

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Standard doesn't apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are not Significant Factors.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	<input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s).

Rationale/Information Sources:

Standard 8 (Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals)

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

<input type="checkbox"/> Standard doesn't apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	X Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are not Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	<input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s).

Rationale/Information Sources:

A number of species presently designated as Sensitive species are present in the allotment. For the most part, the allotment has not been inventoried for sensitive species. Sensitive species occurrences are frequently from incidental observations.

Also a number of wildlife species presently designated as “watch” are also present. Watch species are **not** presently designated as Sensitive species, but may be added to the sensitive list in future years. The most concern with the sensitive animal species is the lack of plant diversity as shown by the limited forb and dominant perennial native grasses in the Blackrock Pocket (proper) and the low composition of big sagebrush over in area above Blackrock Pocket (proper).

There are no plant species presently classified as sensitive known to be in the allotment. Only limited surveys for sensitive plants have been conducted in this allotment and sensitive species may occur. It is unknown whether the standard is being met for special status plant species.

Determination

I have determined that all of the applicable Standards for Rangeland Health (Standards 1, 4 and 8) are not being met and are not making significant progress in the Blackrock Pocket Allotment. Current livestock grazing practices are found not to be a significant factor in the achieving these Standards.

/s/ E. Guerrero
Field Manager

5/12/04
Date